

HO,HO,HappyHolidays!PicturedherearetwoofLaVigna'smorefestivefamily members...BillandChristineAppleget,shownhereinamoodtocelebratethe season.Billrecentlymarkedhisfortiethbirthday.SofromtheApplegets'toall La Vigna readers, Happy Holiday Season

## Holiday Greetings From Copenhagen

By Corrine Bilancio Schoening

Dear *La Vigna* family and friends,

This is the season of several major American holidays, so let me start by saying Happy Thanksgiving. Although this holiday is virtually unknown to Danes, we did host Thanksgiving dinner with two other American-Danish families last week, with turkey and traditional trimmings. It was the first time that I had baked a turkey, so I gathered advice from Aunt Lorraine (Anthony) in Trenton, my mother-in-law in Denmark, Joy of Cooking and the butcher down the street.

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## Exploring The National Telephone Directory: Part 2, The Acquavivas and Chianeses

By Lewis Bilancio

The telephone list is on six computer disks. Each disk includes one region of the U.S. The first disk covers the Northeast including NJ, PA, and on up through Maine. The second includes the Mid-Atlantic, the third includes the South: south of the Carolinas. Disk four is the Mid-west; Five the West (Mountain states) and six includes The Pacific states together with Alaska and Hawaii.

Acquavita in Italian means water from grapevines, which actually equals brandy. But Acquaviva derives from acqua (water) and viva which means alive. I can't think of a better name for someone who edits *La Vigna*.

There are many Acquavivas, 107 in the Northeast of  
Continued on page 4

## An Educators Story

By Betty Acquaviva

As I was reading my *La Vigna*, as I am wont to do as soon as it arrives, (Dean I'm so proud of your work on this), I read the caption, "Calling All Educators", and thought perhaps how I go started in education, rather than what I did, might be more interesting and also encourage others who think it's too late.

It all began when I was working for the State of New Jersey in the Labor and Industry Building. I complained to my husband, the late Vincent Acquaviva, about the unfairness of the promotion procedures and such at the office. He

Continued on page 5

## Teaching: A Family Tradition

By Caroline Macleod

Here is a summary of my teaching career - After graduating from Trenton State College in January 1970, I taught fourth grade in Ewing Township for five years before my daughters Carrie and Jaime were born. I was fortunate to be able to stay home and raise my daughters while Jim and I lived at the Hun School in Princeton. In 1982 we moved to Kent, Connecticut where Jim was hired to teach at the Kent School. With both daughters in school, I volunteered to help in the Kent Center School library. Little did I know

Continued on page 3

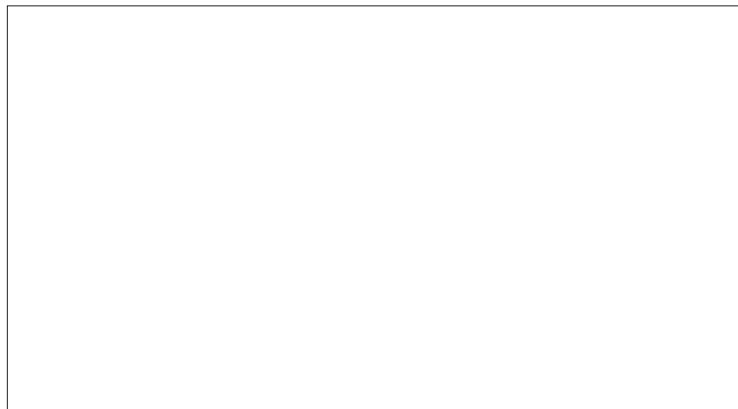
## The Pica Connection

By Lorraine Anthony

Being the youngest member of my family, I never knew my grandfathers or grandmothers and they remain an unsolved mystery to me.

In a past edition of *La Vigna*, my sister, Jennie Im-mordino, took the time to research and create a family tree. Upon examining our tree, I noticed that my paternal grandmother on the Bilancio side was a Pica and on the Chianese side, my paternal grandmother was a Migliaccio.

Continued on page 3



Pictured here we see Maria (Armenti) and Ted Dumbaulds' two beautiful girls Cassidy and Carly wishing all of our readers the warmth of the season.Also shown is Sadie their dog.

# Hang'n on The Vines

By Hugh Noe Hu

Holiday seasons thoughts always turn to family: where they are, and what they are up to...Willie and Terry Bilancio spent Thanksgiving in Trenton, visiting their son William, his wife Caroline, and their daughter Avery, the little twinkle in their collective eyes...They all Dined at Dean and Clora Acquaviva's, on turkey day, along with Dean's mom Betty, his sister Bette Thomas and her sons Reed and Justin; Clora's sister Beatrice Johnson, her son John, daughter Beatrice... Willie, Terry, Dean and Clora all went to NYC the following day to browse the museums and sample some more good food...Lucy Gervasio returned from visiting friends in Texas to fly cross country to see her son Ralph and daughter Angela, and nephew Ivan Bilancio and his lovely family in California, she spent the between flight holiday at her son Joe Gervasio's home in Hamilton...Lew Bilancio is enjoying the warmth of a Floridian New Years with Bernice Smailer, joining them for the New Year will be Lew's Daughter, Corrine, and her husband Peter Schoening, as well as their beloved cherub, Eva...Lorraine Anthony and a few close friends spent Thanksgiving in NYC, taking in a Broadway show and dining out in style...Caroline Macleod and her husband Jim relaxed after a high pressure semester with Jim being recently appointed Dean of Students at Kent School, and Caroline being selected to design the first curriculum on the Internet for public schools....Speaking of promotions Anthony Armenti was promoted to Director of Secondary Education in the Hamilton School District...Mary Armenti, his mother, spent Thanksgiving with her other son, Nicky and his family in north Jersey...This family should consider buying stock in an airline... Bye for now, Hugh.

## Corrections

From time to time we here at *LaVigna* get our facts wrong or just miss some typo or omission in a story or two. Here are some corrections which have been waiting to be made.


Birthdays: Tracey Montague's is November 12th, she has been missing from our list. Lilia Sciscio has been listed as Lilia Chianese though she's been married for some time now.

Carolyn and Jim Mcleod's name was inncorrectly spelled in the spring issue article on her e-mail to *LaVigna*.

Last but not least, for you culinary aficionados you should use four (4) cans of chick peas with Micky Chianese's Chick Pea Salad. He included this info with his recipe and in the retyping I somehow lost it.

Sorry to one and all and please feel free to update **ANY** of our twelve year archives of *LaVigna*, we are striving for 100% accuracy.





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HAPPY

BIRTHDAY



LA VIGNA                      R E A D E R S

## December

- December 5....Corinne Bilancio
- December 7....Scott Schutts
- December 15...Carmen Armenti
- December 16...Beatrice Wiesner-Chianese
- December 21...Ivan Bilancio
- December 23...Anthony Armenti
- Brian Josephson
- December 25...Kimberly Chianese
- December 31...Suzanne Roth
- Jonathan Spillers

## January

- January 1....Mary Gervasio
- January 9....Betty Acquaviva
- Phyllis Gervasio
- January 13...Carolyn Bilancio
- January 14...Brad Schutts
- January 23...Beatrice Johnson
- January 24,,,Joseph Chianese
- January 27...Ralph Garzio

## Info-Quest

Readers rejoice! We are here to celebrate with you and your loved ones. We know that there are new little bundles of joy rummaging under your Christmas trees and Menorahs. We would feel proud and honored to include their names and birthdays in with our list, but we can't unless YOU send them in to us.

In a similar vein, we would like to reinstate our listing of wedding anniversaries and any sugnificant dates in the lives of our readers. These will be published in a 'listing only' column where no story need be provided.

The name of this new feature will be **MILESTONES**. It is our intention to serve you better with new and relevent information, this can only come from you, our readers.



Chi si aiuta il ciel l'aiuta.  
Help yourself and God will help you.

The Pica Connection Cont.

Gee whiz, I had classmates by those names. I wondered, were we related?

Quickly, busy with everyday life, I forgot the whole thing. So much so that when I made an appointment with Dr. Pica, an ophthalmogist, it was because he is located nearby not because he might be related.

It was Dr. Pica himself, who, after reviewing my medical history, recognized the name "Bilancio" and stated, "I think we are kissing cousins."

Upon discussing our family histories and tracing our connection, Dr. Pica walked to his book case and returned with a book written in Italian and one of which he is extremely proud. This book was written by profesor Vincenzo Pica Senior and Lorenzo Migliaccio and is the history of the Pica family. The Pica family has a very impressive history.

While glancing through the book and looking at the pictures, (unfortunately I don't read Italian) a letter fell out. A letter that had been tucked away in 1970 and completely forgotten. Dr. Pica was pleasantly surprised to rediscover it. It had been sent to him over 25 years ago from a former patient and he had filed it away in the Pica book.

The author of this letter is Antonio Scalia. Mr. Scalia is an Associate Justice of The Supreme Court since 1986. He is the first American born of Italian descent to hold this honor. He was born in Trenton in 1936, and graduated from Georgetown and Harvard Universities.

The letter reads as follows:  
Dear Doctor,

The Pica I had in mind was Vittorio Pica. He was an art critic; born in Naples in 1886, he died in Mllan in 1930. He contributed to several Italian and foriegn art and literacy periodicals and was for many years the secretary of the famous Venice Biennial Art Exhibit. Some of his books are: Attreverso gli albi e cartelle, L'arte Giapponese el Museo Chiossone di Genova, Gli Impressionisti Francesi, Arte e artisti nella Svezia di oggi, Artisti contemporanei, De Nittis, ecc.

I am familiar only with his literary criticism, mostly book reviews.

Continued next column this page

A Family Tradition cont.

that my second career in teaching was about to begin. Instead of shelving books, I taught myself BASIC, a computer language, on a PET computer and helped launch the first computer classes for the children in January 1983. I was eventually hired as a computer and gifted teacher and am now the computer coordinator at Kent Center School. I teach grades 1 - 8, give workshops, purchase hardware and software, and write curriculum. I received an MA in computer education from Fairfield University in CT in June 1993. I love teaching and could never have predicted that I would be using computers and teaching over 300 children each week!!!

My husband Jim is also a teacher, coming to it from the banking world. After graduating from the University of Delaware in June 1970, Jim worked in banking in Princeton and Ewing before returning to school for an MAT (Masters of Arts in Teaching) degree from Trenton State College. He taught math at the Hun School for 10 years and for the past13 years at the Kent School. Jim is now the Dean of Students at Kent, teaching one math class in addition to his administrative duties. Jim comes from a family of teachers: his mother and father were also teachers; his sister teaches first grade and her husband was headmaster of a private school in Georgia and Alabama and is now a computer consultant."



Pica Connection cont.

There was also a Giuseppe Pica, (1813-1887), who in 1873 became a Senator of The Kingdom of Italy. He was Abruzzese, having been born in Aquila. I do not know what he was, most likely a lawyer. He played a significant part in the struggle for the unification of Italy.

Sincerely  
S.E. Scalia

Any relative or friend who is interested in reviewing the Pica Book may do so by visiting Dr. Pica's office. He is willing to share the book, but it must stay in his office.

Lorraine Anthony



Lew. B's Xmas letter

Greetings and good wishes to you from Glassboro.

As 1995 winds down the deadly explosions of bombs, shells, machine guns and mines throughout the world become less. Much of this is thanks to our President Clinton. Some of his efforts may fail, but we can be more proud of our country failing at making peace than winning by waging war.

We will begin 1996 as we did last year, by going to Washington. There we will salute the capital as we drive by to board the train at Lorton. In Florida they call us snowbirds, for we spend the winter in a "development" at Boco Raton. Surrounded by a wall that keeps crime out, we have a heated pool that keeps us in.

Bob and Jennie Immordino visited us, then Corinne and Eva. Jennie visited Disneyland for the first time; Eva enjoyed the large mirrored wall; Corinne enjoyed the warm weather and the flowers.

On our return we had wonderful visits with Jane and James Spillers near Atlanta, then the Newcombs in the Virginia mountains, and Bernice's granddaughter Lesli and her family near Richmond.

In the summer it was Shipbottom again, and again Corinne came from Copenhagen and I had the joy of holding my granddaughter Eva while showing her the immensity of the ocean. She gave it a startled glance, then concentrated on children digging in the sand nearby. Family and firends came from California (Roberta and Robert), New Mexico, Pennsylvania (Corinne's Bryn Mawr classmates), Virginia, and Michigan (Franny, Angelica, Iran and Luigi).

We are excited about our New Year Holiday for we will be in Florida with Corinne, Peter and Eva.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a smiley or two for the kids :-> :->  
All good wishes for the new year, Lew and Bernice. Fla phone 1-(407)-451-1545





### National Phone Directory Cont.

which only four live in Trenton. The most common first name is Anthony (16). In the Mid-Atlantic 56; Florida 20; Midwest 15; Pacific 18, mostly California.

Although Chianese does not appear in the Italian dictionary it is a common name in Southern Italy. A Chianese in Naples gave birth to six children (a world record) but they did not survive.

There are a total of 107 Chianeses listed, 24 are listed in the Trenton area. The most common first name is also Anthony, (16). They are concentrated in the Northeast.

In the mid-east 19; the South (including Florida) 14; mid-west 6; Pacific coast 10, of which three are in Ventura.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the names; addresses and phone numbers of the Acquavivas and Chianeses listed, should write, call, or e-mail Dean Acquaviva, c/o La Vigna, 90 Eggerts Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. Ph#(609)882-2448, e-mail to Mackimouse@ AOL. COM



### Our Daily Bread

By Dean Acquaviva

One of my healthiest stereotypes of Italian ethnicity, if there is such a thing, is that of a people in love with their bread. This was reinforced by my paternal grandmother who baked most of her own breads and many other Italian specialty items around the holidays.

When I first was introduced to my wife's family her father Louis Bilancio constantly amazed me with his stamina and perseverance in getting up at ungodly hours in the morning to start the dough to make the day's bread. The bread itself amazed me for I had never been exposed to bread so fresh so tasty, or lived in an environment permeated by the aromatic perfume of baking bread.

This Thanksgiving I wandered into the realm of bread-makers and having met with a modest amount of success found myself enjoying not only the process, but the end result as well.

The act itself is simple, if not primitive, and the hardest part of making your own bread, aside from procuring the constituents, is making up your mind to commit to the task.

For those of you who are uninitiates, the process is really three separate steps; between each you have some down time. First you allow your yeast to grow. Then you mix the yeast mixture with the flour and knead. Finally you 'punch down' the risen dough and allow it to rise again. Now you are ready to bake, the fun part.

The recipes for breads abound in such volume that it is best to start with a tried and true standard from a friend or a cookbook of a plain variety. All books agree that one will acquire a 'bake by touch' approach once you are past the novice stage, I eagerly await this awakening.

Anyone wishing to share more expertise, recipes or just stories of how baking bread was a part of their life (Italian

### Holiday Geeting cont.

Since we live so far from my homeland, keeping in touch with our American family is one of our most treasured endeavors, so we are especially grateful for the continuation of *La Vigna* --keep 'em coming!

I don't imagine Demark features much in the American news, although you may have heard of the royal wedding last week. Understandably, the U.S. has a larger international profile--we've heard about the congressional budget crisis, and yes the O.J. trial was covered over here, albeit the Danes were more amused by the Americans' obsession with the trial than they were interested in the case itself.

On the Bilancio-Schoening home front--our biggest news this year has been the day-to-day development of our daughter, Eva, who turned up in October. We watched with wonder as our tiny curled-up bundle grew into an upright, little person who can now walk away from us, but can also decide to walk back and give us kisses on our smiling faces.

Eva's first word was "clock", proving her relationship to such punctual relatives as Aunt Lorraine and Uncle Bob (Immordino). And like her grandfather Lew, she is a bookworm, enjoying looking at books and, in true bookworm fashion, indulging in the occasional nibble or two.

We've accumulated a lot of frequent flyer mileage this year. Eva and I visited my father and Bernice in Florida in February to celebrate his 80th birthday. We got to see my mother Gloria, as well, who was vacationing in Florida. Peter joined us for a trip to New Jersey in May, and then Eva and I came over in August for a visit to Long Beach Island.

December is a big family/travel month (family equals travel, in our case!): My mother is flying over for a ten-day visit with us this week; Peter, Eva and I will be taking the train to western Denmark to spend Christmas with his mother; then the three of us will be flying to Florida at New Years to visit dad and Bernice.

All of this migration may explain why another of Eva's first words was "bird."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
Corinne Bilancio, Peter Schoening and Eva Elisabeth  
Rosonoerns Alle 53, 2 TV  
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Denmark phone and fax: (country code) 45 35 36 19

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Voce di popolo, voce di Dio.  
The people's voice, God's voice.



Educator's Story cont.

said, “Well, if you had a college degree, this could never happen. You wouldn’t be working there. Why don’t you go to college?”

My reply to this was, “Easy for you to say, (at the time he was working on his doctorate in mathematics) , but I haven’t been in a school in sixteen years. I’ll be almost forty years old if I manage to finish in four years!” He answered saying,”You’ll still be forty if you don’t-so what do you have to lose?”

I realized his Italian reasoning was sound, and agreed to try a course or two during the summer.

It was not easy being the oldest person in the class-sometimes older than the professor, nor was it easy having your daughter in the freshman class at the same time you were a freshman. It was frightening, but at the same time fun and a challenge.

I discovered I could do the class work and the reading and the exchange of ideas, which was great. What I found I couldn’t do was work full time, raise three children and go to school all at once, so I did the smart thing and quit my job. I went to college full time. I took every summer course offered in my field. I took interim courses between semesters, and as many credits as was allowed. I finished in four years; my husband was right- I could spend the four years any way I wanted and I would still be four years older.

I was the oldest graduate in Trenton State College’s class of ’72, but no one was prouder. I spent the next twenty-two years teaching grammar and English Literature at South Hunterdon Regional High School in Hunterdon County. I really enjoyed teaching despite the many varied happenings, I have many wonderful memories of students and fellow teachers. The trips I took to Italy, Germany, England and France during the Easter break with the students. (I’m going to Italy this April with students from South Hunterdon, and yes, I’m going as a chaperone as usual). I also had much interaction at school with drama clubs for students and helped with the productions over the years. Would you believe I was in our Cabaret Night along with the French and music teacher as the Pointer Sisters! We brought down the house three nights in a row with our version of “I’m So Excited”.

I went to numerous Back to School Nights, chaperoned dances, took field trips, sat in on parent conferences, Special Services evaluations, and pep rallies. I arranged many parties and banquets over the years for people who

continued top of next column

were leaving or retiring, the only one I didn’t arrange was my own- I retired in 1993.

I have had students who have become teachers and many who have returned to thank me for all the help I gave them. It helped in college and on the job, so they told me, to be able to speak and write correctly. I had preached this to them for many years. Several became teachers of English and finally knew what it was like on the other side of the desk.

Speaking of teachers, my daughter, Bette Thomas, is a teacher at the Harrison School in Trenton, where by the way, she started her education in kindergarten in 1957. Drew, my youngest son, is a teacher of Earth Science at the Crockett School in Hamilton Township. He teaches at the eighth grade level. Dean, my oldest son, works for Michael Graves in Princeton, but is also certified to teach. He sometimes works as a substitute teacher. My husband, of course, was a teacher in the Trenton School System. He taught in the junior high schools, Junior One through Junior Five.(The names have been changed since then). He also taught at Trenton Central High School where he was responsible for having the first Advanced Placement Courses in the state brought to the high school. He was the Consultant in Mathematics for the State of New Jersey for many, years and in 1972 he received his Doctorate in Education specializing in Mathematics. He was also Program Coordinator and The State Monitor for the Mercer County office.

So you can see as you read this rather verbose (it kind of got away from me) and detailed answer to “Calling All Educators”, I can proudly say that the Acquavivas are a family of educators and have been for the last forty-five years.



Here we see FOUR GENERATIONS of Bilancios, gathered at a holiday celebration in 1978(?) Shown are ; Bottom: Gusippe, William, Terrence. Middle: Louis and Francis. Top: John Anthony. If you have photos showing a span of generations please send them to LaVigna.


**DON'T FORGET THE LaVigna FAMILY PICNIC-IT'S COMING, SOON!**

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

FROM THE LaVigna  
STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES

**PEACE IN 1996**



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